

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL LYON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1114

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652 :N/A

TAGS : PINT, FR

SUBJECT : LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN THE LYON CONSULAR

DISTRICT - FIRST ROUND RESULTS AND OUTLOOK FOR THE

SECOND ROUND

SUMMARY

----- AS FORECAST, NO SWEEPING LEFT GAINS MATERIALIZED
IN THE LYON CONSULAR DISTRICT, NOR ARE THEY LIKELY
IN THE SECOND ROUND. ALL OF THE TWELVE CANDIDATES
ELECTED OUTRIGHT IN THE FIRST ROUND REPRESENTED MAJORITY
PARTIES. THE OUTLOOK HERE IS FOR FINAL RESULTS IN
WHICH THE LEFT MAY GAIN FOUR OR FIVE SEATS, REDUCING
THE MAJORITY TO ABOUT 40 SEATS OUT OF THE TOTAL OF
66 SEATS IN THE DISTRICT. END SUMMARY

1. AT THE END OF THE FIRST ROUND IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE
LEFT WOULD NOT GAIN A LARGE NUMBER OF NEW SEATS IN THE
LYON CONSULAR DISTRICT. IN FACT NO SINGLE CANDIDATE
OF THE LEFT EVEN WON A SEAT OUTRIGHT IN THE FIRST ROUND,
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WHEREAS MAJORITY CANDIDATES DID SO : 9 OF THE UDF AND
3 OF THE RPR. THE MOST PROMINENT FIRST ROUND VICTORY
WAS THAT OF PRIME MINISTER BARRE IN LYON S 4TH DISTRICT.
NOTWITHSTANDING THAT A RUN-OFF HAD BEEN PREDICTED,
BARRE OBTAINED A TRIUMPH OF 25,507 VOTES AGAINST
VIANES, HIS SOCIALIST OPPONENT WHO GATHERED ONLY 9,158.

2. OF THE 66 SEATS AT STAKE IN THE LYON CONSULAR DISTRICT, 44 WERE HELD BY THE MAJORITY, 21 BY THE LEFT AND ONE BY INDEPENDENT, NON-DECLARED. ON THE BASIS OF ANALYSIS, BEST ESTIMATES, AND GUESSWORK SECOND ROUND PROJECTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS :

- 33 SEATS WILL BE RETAINED BY THE MAJORITY
- 16 SEATS WILL BE RETAINED BY THE LEFT
- 6 MAJORITY SEATS WILL BE GAINED BY THE OPPOSITION
- 8 RACES ARE TOO CLOSE TO CALL, OF THESE 5 WERE HELD BY THE MAJORITY AND 3 BY THE LEFT.

ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING FACTORS IT APPEARS THAT THE LEFT WILL MAKE MODERATE GAINS OF 4 OR 5 SEATS, SO THAT AFTER THE SECOND ROUND THE LYON CONSULAR DISTRICT MAY LOOK AS FOLLOWS :

- MAJORITY : 40 OR 41 SEATS
- LEFT : 26 OR 25 SEATS

3. OF THE 25 OR 26 SEATS PROJECTED TO BE WON BY THE LEFT, IT IS EXPECTED THAT 5 OR 6 WILL GO TO P.C. CANDIDATES, POSSIBLY ONE TO THE MRG AND THE REMAINDER TO THE P.S.

4. ONE OF THE MORE INTERESTING RUN-OFFS TO OBSERVE WILL BE THE ONE IN THE CITY OF MOULIN WHERE MAYOR HECTOR ROLLAND, RPR, WHO OBTAINED 22,759 VOTES WILL BE FACING GUILLAUMIN, PC, WHO POLLED 13,104. THE PS UNCLASSIFIED

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CANDIDATE DESGRANGES OBTAINED 12,490 AND THUS A TRULY UNITED LEFT WOULD THEORATICALLY BEAT ROLLAND. IT MAY NOT HAPPEN THIS WAY HOWEVER.

5. IN THE ISERE'S FIRST DISTRICT, CABANEL, PR, APPEARS TO BE IN GREATER DIFFICULTY THAN FORESEEN. HE WILL FACE MME SICARD, PS, IN THE RUN-OFF. COMBINED THE CANDIDATES OF THE LEFT OBTAINED ABOUT 3,000 VOTES MORE THAN CABANEL AND TWO OTHER MAJORITY CANDIDATES. IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF THE ISERE, DUBEDOUT WITH 22,318 OBTAINED ONLY 123 MORE VOTES THAN THE YOUNG RPR CHALLENGER CARIGNON. SINCE THE PC CANDIDATE BLANCHON POLLED 21,327, HOWEVER, DUBEDOUT SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE TO CLINCH THE SECOND ROUND.

6. ONE OF THE UPSETS OF THE FISST ROUND IN THE CITY OF LYON ITSELF WAS THAT AN ATTRACTIVE YOUNG RPR CANDIDATE, MICHEL NOIR, ELIMINATED FORMER MINISTER AND A LONG TIME DEPUTE, JACQUES SOUSTELLE. HAVING RUN AN EXCELLENT OPEN AMERICAN STYLE CAMPAIGN, NOIR IS HEAVILY FAVORED TO DEFEAT HIS SOCIALIST OPPONENT LAREAL IN THIS SUNDAY'S RUN-OFF.

7. VILLEURBANNE, PART OF THE LYON METROPOLITAN AREA,
MAYOR CHARLES HERNU RAN WELL IN THE FIRST ROUND
NOTWITHSTANDING COMMUNIST EFFORTS THROUGHOUT
THE CAMPAIGN TO HINDER HIS CANDIDACY. HE SHOULD HAVE
NO TROUBLE IN THE SECOND ROUND.
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